

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently amended) A method, comprising:
 - (a) receiving a digital image of a document associated with a document type, the digital image including a plurality of black and white pixels arranged in rows;
 - (b) locating at least two predefined portions of the digital image;
 - (c) calculating an area confidence level for each of the predefined portions of the digital image as a function of a total number of black pixels located in the predefined portion relative to an expected number of black pixels for the predefined portion;
 - (d) calculating a text confidence level as a function of a total number of pixel groups relative to a total number of characters, wherein each pixel group comprises a set of touching black pixels and each character comprises one or more pixel groups, wherein calculating the text confidence level comprises:
 - subtracting the total number of characters from the total number of pixel groups to produce a first quantity,
 - dividing the first quantity by the total number characters to produce a second quantity, and

subtracting the second quantity from 1 to produce a third quantity,

if the third quantity is non-negative, setting the text confidence level equal to the
third quantity, and

if the third quantity is negative, setting the text confidence level equal to 0;

- (e) calculating an image profile confidence level as a function of a black pixel distribution and a black pixel density;
- (f) calculating an overall image confidence level as a function of the area confidence level the text confidence level, and the image profile confidence level; and
- (g) storing the digital image as a result of determining that the overall image confidence level is greater than or equal to a threshold value associated with the document type of the image.

2. (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein the document is a bank check and locating the at least two predefined portions of the digital image includes locating the payee line of the check and the legal amount text of the check.

3-4. (Cancelled)

5. (Previously presented) The method of claim 1, wherein the digital image is a first digital image of the document received from scanning equipment, and further comprising, prior to performing step (g):

determining that the overall image confidence level is less than the threshold value;

receiving a second digital image of the document;

replacing the first digital image with the second digital image, wherein the second digital image is treated as the digital image; and

repeating steps (b) through (f).

6. (Previously presented) The method of claim 5, wherein the second digital image is a result of one or more of (i) a modification of the document prior to receiving the second digital image, (ii) a modification of the scanning equipment, or (iii) a modification to a scanned image prior to receiving.

7. (Previously presented) The method of claim 1, wherein calculating the area confidence level comprises:

dividing the total number of black pixels in the predefined portion by the expected number of black pixels for the predefined portion to produce a quantity;

if the quantity is less than or equal to 1, setting the area confidence level equal to the quantity; and

if the quantity is greater than 1, setting the area confidence level equal to 1.

8. (Cancelled)

9. (Previously presented) The method of claim 1, wherein calculating the image profile confidence level comprises:

calculating a standard deviation of the black pixel distribution in each row;

calculating the black pixel density as a ratio of a total number of black pixels in an image area to a total number of pixels in the image area; and

setting the image profile confidence level equal to the smaller of (i) a function of the standard deviation and (ii) a function of the black pixel density.

10. (Previously presented) The method of claim 9, wherein calculating the image profile confidence level further comprises:

adjusting the standard deviation of the black pixel distribution based on a maximum allowable standard deviation and a minimum allowable standard deviation; and

adjusting the black pixel density based on a maximum allowable black pixel density and a minimum allowable black pixel density.

11. (Previously presented) The method of claim 1, wherein calculating the overall image confidence level comprises setting the overall image confidence level equal to a product of the area confidence level, the text confidence level, and the image profile confidence level.

12-17. (Cancelled)

18. (Currently amended) A method, comprising:

determining that a first overall confidence level of a first digital image of a document associated with a document type is less than a threshold value associated with the document type;

receiving a second digital image of the document, the digital image including a plurality of black and white pixels arranged in rows;

locating at least two predefined portions of the second digital image;

calculating an area confidence level for each of the predefined portions of the second digital image as a function of a total number of black pixels located in the predefined portion relative to an expected number of black pixels for the predefined portion;

calculating a text confidence level as a function of a total number of pixel groups relative to a total number of characters, wherein each pixel group comprises a set of touching black pixels and each character comprises one or more pixel groups, wherein calculating the text confidence level comprises:

subtracting the total number of characters from the total number of pixel groups to produce a first quantity,

dividing the first quantity by the total number characters to produce a second quantity, and

subtracting the second quantity from 1 to produce a third quantity,

if the third quantity is non-negative, setting the text confidence level equal to the third quantity, and

if the third quantity is negative, setting the text confidence level equal to 0;

calculating an image profile confidence level as a function of a black pixel distribution and a black pixel density;

calculating a second overall image confidence level as a function of the area confidence level, the text confidence level, and the image profile confidence level; and

storing the second digital image as a result of determining that the second overall image confidence level is greater than or equal to the threshold value.

19. (Previously presented) The method of claim 18, wherein the second digital image is a result of one or more of (i) a modification of the document prior to receiving the second digital image, (ii) a modification of the scanning equipment, or (iii) a modification to a scanned image prior to receiving.

20-21. (Cancelled)

22. (New) The method of claim 18, wherein the document is a bank check and locating the at least two predefined portions of the second digital image includes locating the payee line of the check and the legal amount text of the check.

23. (New) The method of claim 18, wherein calculating the area confidence level comprises:
dividing the total number of black pixels in the predefined portion by the expected number of black pixels for the predefined portion to produce a quantity;
if the quantity is less than or equal to 1, setting the area confidence level equal to the quantity; and
if the quantity is greater than 1, setting the area confidence level equal to 1.

24. (New) The method of claim 18, wherein calculating the image profile confidence level comprises:
calculating a standard deviation of the black pixel distribution in each row;
calculating the black pixel density as a ratio of a total number of black pixels in an image area to a total number of pixels in the image area; and

setting the image profile confidence level equal to the smaller of (i) a function of the standard deviation and (ii) a function of the black pixel density.

25. (New) The method of claim 24, wherein calculating the image profile confidence level further comprises:

adjusting the standard deviation of the black pixel distribution based on a maximum allowable standard deviation and a minimum allowable standard deviation; and

adjusting the black pixel density based on a maximum allowable black pixel density and a minimum allowable black pixel density.

26. (New) The method of claim 18, wherein calculating the second overall image confidence level comprises setting the second overall image confidence level equal to a product of the area confidence level, the text confidence level, and the image profile confidence level.